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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the wake of the interception of the Chinese vessel, Yin He, by United States forces in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and following the investigation by the third country of the contents of the vessel, which proved these accusations invalid, and upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring certain issues to your attention.

The repeated occurrence of acts such as interference with a commercial vessel in international waters under the guise of unfounded suspicions of prohibited cargo destined for one or more member States of the international community and the spreading of slander against Members of the United Nations is aimed at undermining peace and security in the region. It will diminish confidence of States in the implementation of the rules of international law.

Regrettably, the United States Administration, in an irresponsible manner and through intermittent use of whimsical accusations and rumours, manufactures crises. This is how it attempts to justify and strengthen its presence in various regions of the world, including the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

The emphatic reliance of the United States on information disseminated out of ill will within and outside that country is a source of great concern. This information usually has no reliable source and its use by the United States endangers international peace and security. The campaign of propaganda that other States are buying or producing prohibited weapons and subsequent actions, such as the interception of the Chinese vessel, will neither help international peace and security nor prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In fact, it will intensify the arms race by creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety; it will diminish international understanding and confidence; it will create an insecure and turbulent atmosphere in different regions, and it will turn to ashes all hopes for building an international community based on rule of law. Undoubtedly, presentation of such unfounded claims and the illegal interception of the vessel in total disregard for the rule of law by the United States will, at this juncture, only adversely affect the universal acceptance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The fact that the United States openly declares that it intends to employ the same unfounded accusations for similar actions in the future, despite the proof of invalidity of its recent accusations, is a further cause for international concern. The action of the United States constitutes a serious violation of the rules of international law pertaining to free commercial navigation and trade. Only an appropriate response by the international community will help preserve the credibility of accepted rules and regulations relevant to free navigation which is so essential to free trade.

The action of the United States had no legal justification and was simply a case of recalcitrance in the face of recognized rules of international law. It also caused great losses to many individuals, for which the United States bears legal liability.

I wish to express my Government's deep concern over the illegal activities of the United States in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. This concern stems from the fact that our country enjoys the longest shoreline and consequently the most vested strategic interests in the Persian Gulf region. I deem it necessary to remind you that continuation of such activities in contravention of international law, in any part of the world, seriously undermines international peace and security and confidence. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, believes that the international community should reject such lawlessness and prevent the United States from playing the self-assigned role of international police, which contradicts the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 36, 61, 71 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative